

THE RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Issues	Options for Addressing Issues
COUNCIL ISSUES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community based vs. government based projects ▪ Diversification of Council funding ▪ Lack of data ▪ Stewardship (both short-term and long-term) ▪ Studies should be action-oriented ▪ Use of existing data 	Administrative support for council development activities.
DATA/RESEARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of data ▪ Use of existing data ▪ Compile data ▪ We need to take action – studies should support this 	Master/Reference List Historical Records Upgrade mapping Aerial Photos Inventory wetlands (impact of agriculture and gravel mining) Inventory water rights and property ownership Monitor biological, social, economic activities and their effect on the river Administrative Support
HABITAT PROTECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endangered Species Act – habitat protection ▪ Fish hatcheries ▪ Fisheries ▪ Flood plain ▪ Flow regimes ▪ Native habitat protection ▪ Riparian Habitat ▪ Seasonal to year round flow – restoration ▪ Section 7 and the Endangered Species Act ▪ Timber harvest ▪ Tributaries ▪ Use of streams as flood control channels ▪ Water quantity ▪ Water temperature ▪ Wildlife migration • Loss of biodiversity • Habitat fragmentation • Vegetation Conversion 	Data gathering Mapping of land use patterns (Coastal Conservancy, Dept. of F&G, RCDs, NRCS, Sauhedrin Chapter of Native Plants Society, Circuit Riders, CA Resources Agency web site, etc.) Inventory - Aerial Photos Watershed analysis regarding floodplain function and riparian corridor restoration Water quality study (temperature, turbidity, etc.) Survey of exotic species Stop permit violations Administrative Support
RESTORATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community based vs. government based projects ▪ Economic analysis of the cost of restoration activities vs. the cost of preventative protection of the watershed (true costs) ▪ Interim steps to stop degradation ▪ Stewardship (both short-term and long-term) ▪ Use of existing data ▪ We need to take action – studies should support this ▪ Seasonal to year round flow – restoration ▪ Sediment and Erosion Control ▪ Remove Invasive species ▪ Tributary Restoration ▪ Riparian Habitat Restoration ▪ Bank & Channel Stability 	Data gathering Mapping of natural resources and land use patterns (Coastal Conservancy, Dept. of F&G, RCDs, NRCS, Sauhedrin Chapter of native Plants Society, Circuit Riders, CA Resources Agency web site, etc. for working in progress) Identify areas which could be repaired/restored Aerial photo history Comprehensive channel cross sections (tributaries/mainstream field surveys) Sediment budget/sediment transport studies Define the effects of road dust Field survey including Russian River configuration, tributary access Weigh factors/authority to balance each parameter that impacts watershed resources Historic map review Study effects of dams and channelization Study alternative ways of using water Biological Survey – field survey and modeling Data Collection (temperature, diversion rates, sediment supply, fish passage problems) Flow Studies and Monitoring Administrative Support

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RECREATION/ACCESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aesthetics ▪ Coyote dam ▪ Eel/Russian Potter Valley Project ▪ Fisheries ▪ Flow regimes ▪ Salmonid ▪ Trash used to stabilize banks ▪ Wastewater discharge ▪ Water quantity 	Study effects of sport and commercial fishing Determine water quality impacts Administrative Support
STEELHEAD AND COHO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish hatcheries ▪ Fisheries ▪ Native habitat protection ▪ Native species vs. exotic/ invasive/ non-native species ▪ Riparian Habitat ▪ Seasonal to year round flow – restoration ▪ Section 7 and the Endangered Species Act ▪ Water quantity ▪ Water temperature ▪ Wildlife migration 	Data Gathering (area by area) Species Count Fish habitat studies Impact of predatory species (squaw fish) Use existing data Long-term monitoring Study effects of sport and commercial fishing Determine water quality impacts Dams impact Determine loss of habitat impacts Administrative Support
FLOOD REDUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coyote dam ▪ Eel/Russian Potter Valley Project ▪ Flood control ▪ Flood plain ▪ Flow regimes ▪ Use of streams as flood control channels ▪ Water quantity 	Field Survey Identify trouble spots Administrative Support
DAM OPERATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coyote dam ▪ Diversion ▪ Eel/Russian Potter Valley Project ▪ Fish hatcheries ▪ Fisheries ▪ Flood control ▪ Seasonal to year round flow – restoration ▪ Section 7 and the Endangered Species Act ▪ Water quantity ▪ Water temperature 	Data Gathering Develop economic rebalance Effects on fish stability Bank stability Park Steiner proposal Aquifer Hydrograph (water needs assessment in real time) Map geomorphic changes Review anecdotal accounts Change flow regimes to lesson erosion and flooding and enhance native species Administrative Support
REGULATORY ISSUES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture/Right-to-farm ▪ Development impacts ▪ Enforcement of existing regulations ▪ Flood plain ▪ Gravel mining ▪ Land use planning ▪ Property rights ▪ Regional compost facilities (minimum compliance vs. optimal operations) 	Data Gathering Stop permit violations Regulatory reform and permit streamlining Timely Permit Process for Beneficial Uses Administrative Support
ECONOMIC USES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture/Right-to-farm ▪ Development impacts ▪ Gravel mining ▪ Property rights ▪ Restorative economy ▪ Timber harvest ▪ Water rights ▪ Economic analysis of the cost of restoration activities vs. the cost of preventative protection of the watershed (true costs) 	Data Gathering Identify limits of the natural resources and parameters for their use Inventory water rights and property Monitor biological, social, economic activities and their effect on the river Develop economic rebalance Administrative Support

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WATER SUPPLY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coyote dam ▪ Diversion ▪ Eel/Russian Potter Valley Project ▪ Flow regimes ▪ Infiltration and recharge ▪ Seasonal to year round flow – restoration ▪ Section 7 and the Endangered Species Act ▪ Water rights 	Data Gathering Study effects of dams and channelization Study alternative ways of using water Biological Survey – field survey and modeling Stop permit violations Flow Studies and Monitoring Comprehensive channel cross sections (tributaries/mainstream field surveys) Sediment budget/sediment transport studies Administrative Support
WATER QUALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enforcement of existing regulations ▪ Erosion and sedimentation ▪ Regional compost facilities (minimum compliance vs. optimal operations) ▪ TMDL, esp. fast-tracking of the process ▪ Toxics ▪ Trash used to stabilize banks ▪ Wastewater discharge ▪ Water temperature 	Data Collection (temperature, diversion rates, sediment supply, fish passage problems) Study alternative ways of using water Sediment budget/sediment transport studies Water quality study (temperature, turbidity, etc.) Field Survey (test toxic levels) Grey water for industrial use Increase treatment of discharge Administrative Support